

REGULAR NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2011

The North Providence School Committee met on February 16, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room at the High School. Members present were Chairman Marciano, Mrs. Reall, Mr. Cataldi, Mr. Iannetta, Mr. Palmieri, Mrs. Picard and Ms. Leva. Also present was Superintendent Ottaviano and Mr. Scungio. Dr. Donoyan, Mr. Saunders and Mr. Milazzo were present for the regular session only. Appropriate disclosure was made by the Chair concerning compliance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) indicating that any person to be discussed had been appropriately notified.

Motion by Ms. Leva, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and carried to go into open session at 6:40 p.m. The regular session was recessed to go into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. The regular session reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

The Chair led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for a member of the staff who passed away suddenly within the last month. He was only here for a short time. He was a quality person, Jeff Robinson.

III. CHAIR TO REPORT OUT ANY VOTES TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECEIVE MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF RIGL 42-46-(4) & (5).

The Chair reported that there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

IV. REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Superintendent Ottaviano reported that on January 8, 2011, the reorganization of the School Committee was performed. Nominations were taken for Anthony Marciano as the School Committee

Chairperson, Ronald Iannetta as the Vice Chairperson, and Gina Picard as Clerk. The School Committee will confirm the votes taken for the reorganization. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Ms. Leva and Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 11-1-01. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee vote to affirm the new School Committee Officers. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent of the Committee.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair next reported that there was no correspondence received.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 3-4.

No comments were received.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Whelan School Science Presentation.

The principal of the Whelan School, Kim Granato, spoke about the Science Day and the students, Julia and Julia, who will give a presentation after a short slide show of the Stop Drop Science Day.

Julia Rosenfeld and Julia Jasper gave a brief presentation. The Chair thanked them for their presentation.

2. Presentation to Assistant Principal of North Providence High School

On behalf of the North Providence School Committee, Christen Magill was presented with recognition honoring her selection as the 2011 Assistant Principal of the Year Award.

3. 2009/2010 Audit Presentation.

Robert Civetti presented the findings of the audit report. He highlighted several areas of the report and explained the findings of each. The Chair thanked Mr. Civetti for his presentation. Several members of the Committee asked questions. Next, Mayor Lombardi asked the Committee about the Corrective Action Plan. Superintendent Ottaviano explained that a Deficit Reduction Plan is necessary before a Correction Action Plan can be put in place and that they are in the process of developing the Plan.

4. Tri Town Survey.

Superintendent Ottaviano read a statement from Joseph DeSantis regarding the purchase of the Boys' Club. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Picard as to Resolution No. 11-1-2. Be it resolved

that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee vote to approve the Tri Town Survey as presented by Joseph DeSantis. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

5. Middle School Bullying Survey.

Assistant Principal Tonianne Moniz requested permission to survey the two middle schools. She added that the survey would be voluntary and anonymous. She explained that the information will be used for her dissertation. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Cataldi as to Resolution No. 11-1-03. Be it resolved that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Committee vote to approve the Middle School Bullying Survey as presented by Ms. Moniz. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

6. Monthly Financial Report.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for advice and consent of the School Committee for approval of the January and February Monthly Financial Reports as presented. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by

Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No 11-1-04. Be it resolved that, at the request of the Superintendent, the Monthly Financial Report for January and February be approved. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, nay, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

7. Home Schooling Requests.

Dr. Donoyan asked for advice and consent of the School Committee for approval of the Home Schooling Request by Marie Hauser for Veronica Hauser (Grade 8). Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Ms. Leva and Mr. Palmieri as to Resolution No. 11-1-05. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee vote to approve the Home Schooling Request as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, nay, Mr. Cataldi, nay, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 2.

8. Field Trip Requests.

Dr. Donoyan asked for advice and consent of the School Committee for approval of the Field Trip Requests as submitted and in accordance with School Committee Policy. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 11-1-06. Be it resolved

that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee vote to approve the field trip requests as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

9. Crossing Guard Contract.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for advice and consent of the North Providence School Committee for approval of the Crossing Guard Contract as presented. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Reall, Ms. Leva, and Mr. Palmieri as to Resolution No. 11-1-07. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee vote to approve the Crossing Guard Contract as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

10. Athletic Policy.

Superintendent Ottaviano reported that the Athletic Policy is being presented for the 1st reading. She asked that members provide input before the March meeting. Mrs. Reall felt that under the “Philosophy” and “Objectives”, the word “parent” should be added. Motion by Mr.

Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Reall to amend the Athletic Policy to include the word “parent.” A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

11. School Spring Contract.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for advice and consent of the Committee for approval of the School Spring Contract Renewal. Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Cataldi as to Resolution No. 11-1-09. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee vote to approve the School Spring Contract Renewal as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, nay, Mr. Palmieri, nay, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 2.

VII. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. Presentation – Assistant Principal Christen Magill.

This item was moved up to the Superintendent’s Report.

2. Designation of Counsel and Clerk.

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Cataldi to designate Brennan Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister as School Committee Legal Counsel Effective January 2011 to January 2013. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Cataldi to designate Margie Caranci as School Committee Secretary Effective January 1011 to January 2013. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

3. Notification of School Committee Assignments By Chairman.

The Chair read the list of Assignments. Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Iannetta to approve the list of Assignments as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

4. Union Response to Class Schedules - Mr. Palmieri.

Mr. Palmieri expressed concern about the union's response to his suggestion that the schedules be passed out so that the parents know what their children are doing. He asked if anyone else was concerned with their response. Members of the Committee offered comments.

5. Middle School Foreign Language Curriculum – Mr. Palmieri.

Mr. Palmieri spoke about a parent who expressed concern with the fact that there is no foreign language in the middle school. He asked Mr. Goho if there should be a foreign language in the middle school. Mr. Goho spoke about a discussion to survey the 6th grade and offer instruction to the 7th and 8th grades. Discussion took place and members of the audience and Committee offered comments. The Chair suggested that a middle school and high school curriculum committee be formed and that the issue be referred to them. Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Iannetta to look into the costs and staffing issues. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

6. New Hiring Policy – Mr. Palmieri.

Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Iannetta to refer the matter to the personnel subcommittee. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

7. Crossing Guard Issue – Mr. Palmieri.

Mr. Palmeiri addressed his concern regarding the shortage of crossing guards. He asked Deputy Chief Martellini to speak about the crossing guard situation. He explained that the total crossing guard absences from September to today is 161 absences. Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mrs. Picard to refer the matter to the personnel subcommittee. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

8. Inclusion of SPED Students in Classes – Mr. Palmieri.

Mr. Palmieri spoke about the problem at Maguire School. He talked about the children being bused to one particular school and asked if the teachers are being trained. Superintendent Ottaviano explained and passed out information. Discussion took place and members of the audience and Committee asked questions and offered comments.

9. Student Absences – Mr. Palmieri.

Mr. Palmieri expressed concern with excused and unexcused absences. He felt that if a child is late due to the weather, it should be an excused absence. The Chair suggested that the matter be referred to legal counsel for review.

VIII. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

No requests were received.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Awarding Bids.

No bids were received.

2. Consideration of Resignations; Retirements; Leaves of Absence; Dismissals; Layoffs; Non-Renewals; Layoff Rescissions; Appointments/Other.

A. Resignations.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for advice and consent of the Committee for approval of the resignation of Lindsey Kelly – Speech/Language Pathologist Pre-School/Centredale Elementary Effective February 7, 2011 and Giana Nassi – Assistant Cheerleading Coach – NPHS Effective December 28, 2010. Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 11-1-11. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee accept the resignations as presented by the Superintendent. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

B. Retirements.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Retirement Request submitted by Alice Brady – Middle School Guidance Counselor – Birchwood Middle School – Effective December 30, 2010 and Elizabeth Rosati – Teacher Assistant – Greystone Elementary School – Effective February 11, 2011. Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 11-1-12. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee vote to approve the retirement of Alice Brady and Elizabeth Rosati as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion

carried by unanimous consent.

C. Leaves of Absence.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee approve the Leave of Absence Requests from Daria Argenti – Grade 4 Teacher – Centredale Elementary School – Extension to an Unpaid Leave of Absence – Effective January 21, 2011 through the end of the 2010/2011 School Year; Cristina Brothers – Self/Contained Special Educator – McGuire Elementary School FMLA Paid Leave – Effective May 27, 2011 through the end of the 2010/2011 School Year; Kerri Crescenzo-Croft – Special Educator – Ricci Middle School Extension to a Paid Medical Leave – Effective – January 10, 2011 through TBD; Linda DeAngelis – Teacher Assistant – NPHS Unpaid Leave of Absence May 9, 2011 through July 29, 2011; Nicole Fiero – 7/8 Math Teacher – Ricci Middle School FMLA Paid Leave Effective April 25, 2011 through May 31, 2011 FMLA Unpaid Leave Effective June 1, 2011 through the remainder of the 2010/2011 School Year; Kym Hambly – 7/8 Grade English/Language Arts Teacher – Birchwood Middle School Extension to an Unpaid Medical Leave of Absence Effective January 3, 2011 through February 28, 2011; Karen Kittell – Teacher Assistant – McGuire Elementary School Paid Medical Leave of Absence Effective January 3, 2011 through the remainder of the 2010/2011 School Year; Linda Markey – Special Educator – NPHS Extension to an Unpaid Medical Leave of Absence Effective January 1, 2011 through July 1, 2011; Diane Palmisciano – Secretary – Ricci Middle School FMLA

Paid Leave – Effective January 27, 2011 through February 7, 2011 and FMLA Unpaid Leave Effective February 8, 2011 through April 29, 2011; Jillian Ruggerio – Integrated Pre-K Special Education Teacher – Greystone Elementary School FMLA Paid Leave Effective March 9, 2011 through May 20, 2011 and FMLA Unpaid Leave Effective May 23, 2011 through the remainder of the 2010/2011 School Year; and Stephanie Voccio – 7/8 English Teacher – Birchwood Middle School FMLA Paid Leave Effective – December 2, 2010 through January 31, 2011. Motion by Ms. Leva, seconded by Mr. Palmieri as to Resolution No. 11-1-13. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee approve the Leave of Absence Requests as presented by the Superintendent. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, the Chair, aye. Mr. Iannetta recused himself from the vote for the leave of absence request by Daria Argenti. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

D. Appointments.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for advice and consent of the Committee for the following appointments: Marie Capuano – Teacher Assistant – NPHS Effective February 17, 2011; Jesse Ciolfi – High School Girls' Assistant Cheerleader Advisor – NPHS Effective February 17, 2011; Angela DiCenzo – Teacher Assistant – NPHS Effective February 17, 2011; Michelle Ficocelli – Teacher Assistant –

Greystone Elementary School Effective February 17, 2011; Gina Pollock – Teacher Assistant – Whelan Elementary School Effective February 17, 2011; and Michael Saunders – Interim Finance Director Effective February 7, 2011. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 11-1-14. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee approve the Appointments as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent. The Committee offered congratulations to the appointees present.

E. Layoffs/Non-Renewals.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that due to the upcoming deadline and the uncertainty of state and federal funding and an abundance of caution, the North Providence School Committee approve the Layoffs/Non-Renewals as submitted in the School Committee packets. R. Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 11-1-15. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee vote to approve the layoffs (see attached list) and non-renewals (Cheril Smith, Richard Gagnon, Susan Farrell) as submitted in the School Committee packets. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall,

aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was presented.

XI. USE OF PROPERTY REQUESTS

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the approval of the Use of Property Requests submitted which were not previously approved, based on School Committee Policy, availability and the request meeting all the necessary conditions. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 11-1-17. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grant advice and consent to the approval of the Use of Property Requests as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

XII. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of January and February List of Bills as presented and submitted to the Committee. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 11-1-18. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grants advice and consent to approve and pay the January and February 2011 List of Bills in the amount of \$888,903.52 and 555,776.74. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

XIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and Mr. Cataldi as to Resolution No. 11-1-19. Be it resolved that, at the Recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee approve and seal the Minutes of the December 15, 2010 Executive Session in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-46-4 and 5 and approve the Minutes of the Regular North Providence School Committee Meeting as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mr. Cataldi, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS IN AGENDA ITEMS 7 - 13.

No public comments were received.

XV. PENDING BUSINESS

No pending business was discussed.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs Picard and Mr. Palmieri and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Margie Caranci,
Recording Secretary of the North Providence
School Committee**

Date Submitted to Committee:

Date Approved by the Committee: